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FORTY-NINTH SESSION

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GENERAL COMMITTEE
4th meeting
held on
Friday, 28 October 1994
at 9.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ESSY
(President of the General Assembly)

later: Mr. TOURÉ
(Vice-President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by Rwanda (A/49/233)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider a request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Emergency international assistance for a solution to the problem of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in war-stricken Rwanda", contained in document A/49/233. The representative of Rwanda had asked to address the Committee on that matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Bakuramutsa (Rwanda) took a place at the Committee table.

3. Mr. BAKURAMUTSA (Rwanda) said that the spirit of the Arusha Peace Agreement signed on 4 August 1993 had been betrayed following the death of former President Juvenal Habyarimana on 6 April 1994. There was no need to dwell on the neo-nazism of the toppled regime or the tragedy which had culminated in the genocide of the Tutsi people. As a result of the four-year war, Rwanda was devastated socially, economically, financially and in terms of its human resources. It would long suffer the consequences of the deaths by genocide and other causes, all social classes, including the various élite groups, having been affected.

4. The Rwandese delegation expressed its profound gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his efforts in bringing the humanitarian crisis in Rwanda to the attention of the international community, and to neighbouring and other States for the humanitarian assistance they had given to the Rwandese people.

5. Rwanda implored donor Governments, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to implement assistance programmes for Rwanda as a matter of urgency. The economic and financial catastrophe that had afflicted Rwanda meant that the Government did not have the funds to re-establish even the most rudimentary administration or to pay its officials. Hence the pressing need to organize bridging assistance to provide subsidies via bilateral channels and/or through international financial institutions. The present request by Rwanda would allow bilateral donors to study ways and means of assisting the Rwandese Government to settle the problem of its arrears to the World Bank and would add weight to the request to Member States to make generous contributions to the trust fund set up on 14 July 1994 to finance humanitarian aid and recovery programmes in Rwanda.

6. Mr. BEN HAMIDA (Tunisia), Mr. TOURÉ (Guinea-Bissau) and Mr. NKATIBIRORA (Burundi) endorsed the inclusion of the sub-item in the agenda.

7. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item as sub-item (f) of agenda item 37.

8. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the sub-item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

9. Mr. Bakuramutsa (Rwanda) withdrew.

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by Zaire (A/49/235)

10. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider a request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Special assistance to countries receiving refugees from Rwanda," contained in document A/49/235. The representative of Zaire had asked to address the Committee on that matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

11. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Lukabu Khabouji N'Zaji (Zaire) took a place at the Committee table.

12. Mr. LUKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAJI (Zaire) said that the war in Rwanda had had grave political, economic, social and environmental repercussions for neighbouring countries, and the sufferings of the local populations which had welcomed the Rwandese refugees had not been given adequate consideration. He therefore asked that the question of aid to all countries that had received Rwandese refugees should be included in the agenda and discussed in plenary meeting.

13. Mr. Touré (Guinea-Bissau), Vice-President of the General Assembly, took the Chair.

14. Mr. BEN HAMIDA (Tunisia), Mr. MATUPA (Malawi), Mr. LEUNG (Fiji), and Mr. ELTINAY (Sudan) endorsed the inclusion of the sub-item in the agenda.

15. Mr. NKATIBIRORA (Burundi) after endorsing the inclusion of the sub-item in the agenda, drew attention to the proposed regional conference to study the question of assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes region and welcomed the United Nations Secretary-General's dispatch of a mission designed to facilitate the holding of an international conference on the subregion's problems.

16. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item as sub-item (g) of agenda item 37.

17. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the sub-item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.